

MAR 13 2015

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU AND STATE OF HAWAII
TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF A PUBLIC-PRIVATE
PARTNERSHIP TO RESTORE, ALLOW PUBLIC ACCESS TO, AND
MAINTAIN THE HAIKU STAIRS AND THE HONOLULU BOARD OF WATER
SUPPLY TO DEFER PLANS TO REMOVE THE HAIKU STAIRS UNTIL THE
FEASIBILITY STUDY IS CONCLUDED.

1 WHEREAS, the Haiku Stairs, also known as the Haiku Ladder,
2 Pali Ladder, and Stairway to Heaven, is a series of galvanized-
3 steel ship ladders from the Haiku Valley floor to the top of Puu
4 Keahiakahoe, reaching an altitude of more than 2,800 feet, with
5 some of the most beautiful and breathtaking views in the world;
6 and
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8 WHEREAS, beginning in 1942, contractors for the United
9 States Navy began construction of the Haiku Radio Station, a top
10 secret facility that was to be used to transmit long distance
11 radio signals to Navy ships operating throughout the Pacific;
12 and
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14 WHEREAS, the radio station at Haiku Valley was inactivated
15 in 1958 and began to function under the United States Coast
16 Guard as an experimental OMEGA radio navigation station; and
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18 WHEREAS, millions of television viewers viewed the Haiku
19 Stairs in an episode of *Magnum P.I.* on April 9, 1981, attracting
20 the attention of visitors, residents, and film and television
21 production companies; and
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23 WHEREAS, according to United States Coast Guard records,
24 the popularity of the Haiku Stairs hike, at its peak, was nearly
25 two hundred people per day on the weekends and averaged 20,000
26 climbers a year; and
27



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1 WHEREAS, despite the permanent closure of the Haiku Stairs
2 in 1987, the public continues to illegally climb the Haiku
3 Stairs for the sweeping views of Oahu; and

4
5 WHEREAS, the increased popularity of the Haiku Stairs has
6 led to a number of maintenance issues, including litter and
7 vandalism, as well as public safety issues, including emergency
8 rescues and liability concerns, incurring additional burdens to
9 city taxpayers; and

10
11 WHEREAS, after a storm on February 14, 2015, inflicted
12 major damage to the structure, the Honolulu Board of Water
13 Supply developed a plan to study the feasibility of permanently
14 removing the Haiku Stairs; and

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16 WHEREAS, an ecological, historical, and recreational
17 treasure should be opened to the general public and saved in
18 perpetuity; and

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20 WHEREAS, a pay-to-hike proposal of \$5 to \$20 per hiker
21 would be a way to raise revenue to maintain and repair the Haiku
22 Stairs, with at least one or two days per month available for
23 free hikes for those who cannot pay; and

24
25 WHEREAS, paying hikers may meet at a location away from the
26 Haiku Stairs and be bussed to the trailhead to alleviate the
27 need for parking stalls in the community; now, therefore,

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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the
31 House of Representatives concurring, that the City and County of
32 Honolulu and the State of Hawaii conduct a feasibility study of
33 a public-private partnership to restore, open to the public, and
34 maintain the Haiku Stairs; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the feasibility study include
37 an option for a pay-to-hike system where revenues generated
38 would pay for the operation and maintenance of the Haiku Stairs;
39 and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Honolulu Board of Water
42 Supply defer any plans to remove the Haiku Stairs until the



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1 feasibility study of a public-private partnership is concluded;
2 and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Mayor of
6 the City and County of Honolulu, Chair of the Honolulu City
7 Council, Manager and Chief Engineer of the Board of Water
8 Supply, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,
9 President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Tourism
10 Authority, and President of the Friends of Haiku Stairs Board of
11 Directors.
12
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OFFERED BY:

Will Egan

